

The California Almond Sustainability Program (CASP)

Almond Board of California (ABC)



Documenting the California Almond community's thoughtfulness and efforts in using environmentally friendly and socially responsible practices is critical to ensuring California Almonds remain a crop of choice to grow and nut of choice to buy.

CASP achieves this through grower and handler assessment of best management practices (BMPs), the interpretation and communication of results, and the application of results for education and continuous improvement.

The interrelated CASP elements constitute the Cycle of Continuous Improvement, allowing participants to assess their practices; compare results to collective averages; learn about, plan for and implement alternative practices; and periodically reassess.

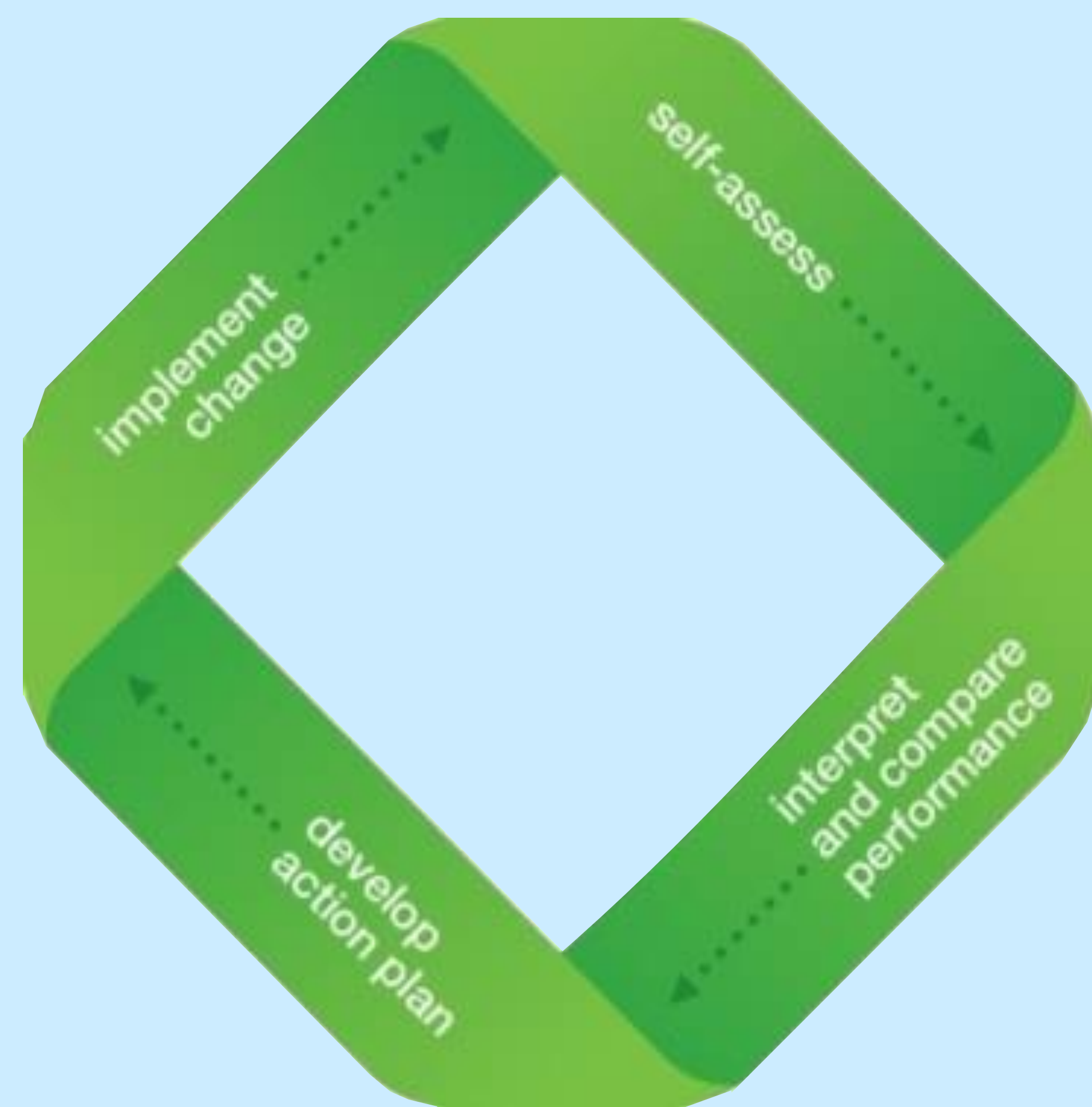


Growers and handlers participate by completing assessments at workshops or by using the online self-assessment and reporting system at www.sustainablealmondgrowing.org.

Modules used for assessments include Irrigation Management, Nutrient Management, Energy Efficiency, Air Quality and Pest Management. Module content is derived from ABC-funded research, University of California publications and expertise, grower and handler experience, and other authoritative sources.

Results indicate that BMPs may not be appropriate for all circumstances because of site-specific differences and challenges.

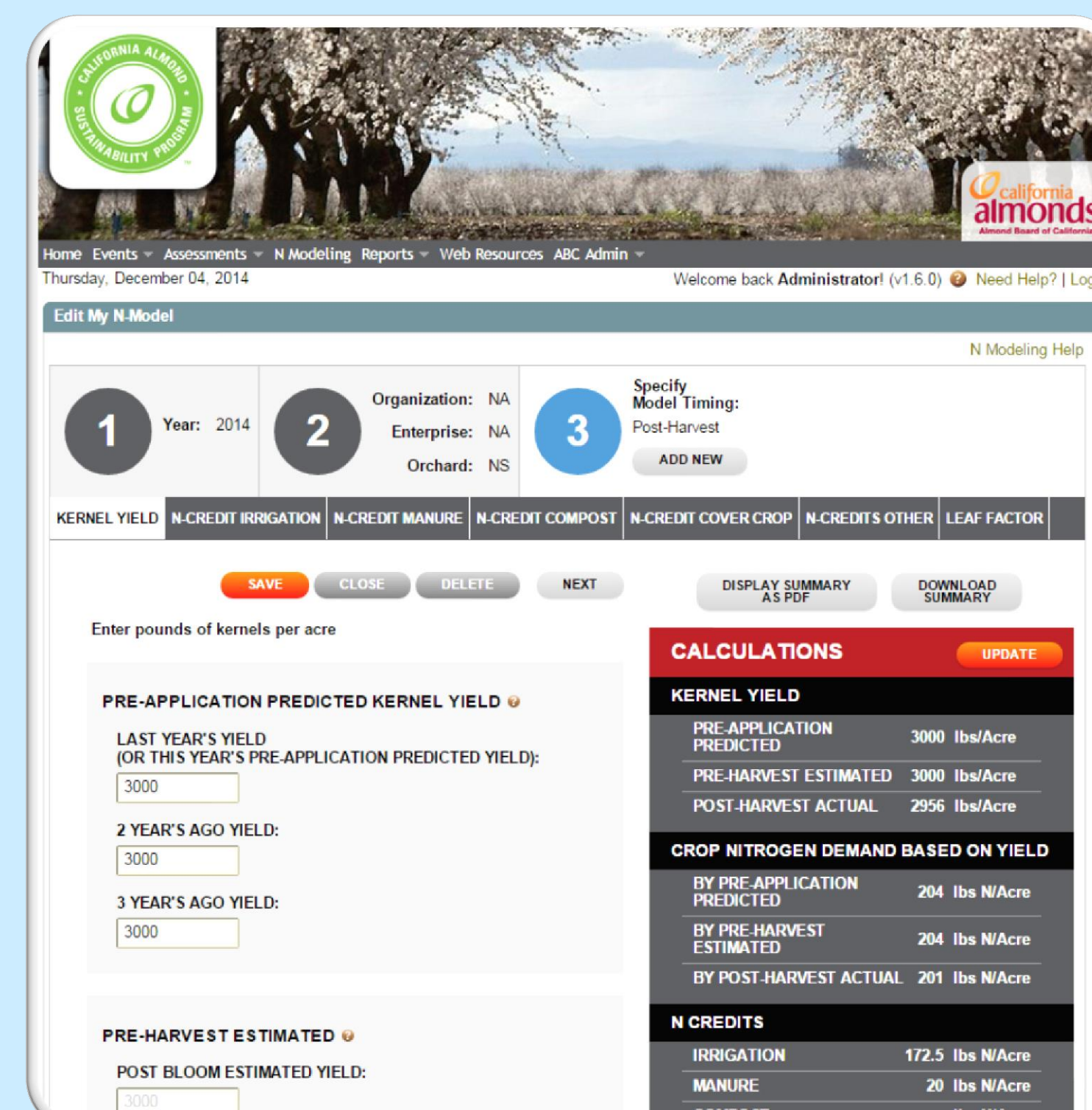
To date, 1,255 growers and handlers have participated, resulting in assessments on behalf of 526 farming operations for 693 orchards covering 115,440 acres.



Extensive grower participation has enabled understandings of statewide baseline use of orchard BMPs with statistical significance. The 2014 Almond Sustainability Report tells this "Good Story" by applying SureHarvest's Value Analysis Methodology to detail strengths, and opportunities for improvement, in BMPs that provide the most environmental and grower economic value.

Results are being used to target educational needs to support continuous improvement.

Visit the Almond Board of California (ABC) booth for more information about the California Almond Sustainability Program (CASP).



What's New for 2015?

- Modules/content for Financial Management, Ecosystem Management, Water Quality and Workplace & Communities.
- Improvements to online decision-support tool for optimized nitrogen use (based on UC model) and, when finalized, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program reporting.
- Education to increase BMP adoption based on grower economic value, environmental value and assessment results.